

Construction of Raniganj-Meja Railway Line

994. SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have approved construction of railway line from Raniganj to Meja on Eastern Railway;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) at what stage the project stands at present?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALIKARJUN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

Renovation of Angkor Vat Temple

995. SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Archaeological Survey of India has taken up renovation of the Angkor Vat Temple in Cambodia;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the likely date by which the renovation work will be completed?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The massive structural complex which was damaged at various points due to different reasons including neglect and vagaries of nature was taken up for archaeological conservation and preservation from 1986 onwards under a bilateral agreement

between Governments of Combodia and India.

A number of items including the famous Samudremanthan Gallery, parts of towers, porticos, pavilions, galleries, library buildings, esplanade and steps of the moat have been subjected to archaeological conservation and preservation. The work is presently in progress.

(c) As conservation and preservation of Angkor Vat Temple complex is a time consuming process it is likely to be completed within next two years.

Vocational Education in Navodaya Vidyalayas

996. SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE:
SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether vocational education has been made compulsory in Navodaya Vidyalayas;

(b) if so, whether these Vidyalayas are well equipped technically to impart such education;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the steps taken by the Government to equip these Vidyalayas for imparting vocational education?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) No, Sir. However, vocational courses have been started in 16 Navodaya Vidyalayas at "plus two" level from the current academic year.